

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SAB-01

SAM-01 NIC-01 AID-05 /092 W
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R 141445Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6293

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, XF, VS

SUBJECT: PLO RECOGNITION: PRG PROSPECTS FOR RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 006860

1. WE HAVE DELAYED REPLYING TO REFTEL UNTIL UW COULD SPEAK WITH GOI OFFICIALS CONCERNED. THE THEY ARE VAGUE ABOUT THE WHOLE PLO RECOGNITION ISSUE. (TEXT GOI STATEMENT ON OPENING OF PLO OFFICE SENT SEPTTEL). THE MEA JOINT SECRETARY (MIDDLE EAST), WHEN ASKED "WHY NOW?" SIMPLY SMILED AND REFERRED BACK TO UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE PLO, ARAFAT'S SPEECH IN NEW YORK, THE ARAB DECISION TO ACCEPT THE PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS, AND TO THE NON-ALIGNED POSITION ON THE PLO AND INDIA'S SUPPORT FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN 1974. HE
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CLAIMED THE GOI HAD NOT BEEN UNDER ANY PARTICULAR PRESSURE

FROM THE ARABS ON THIS ISSUE IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, NOR WAS RECOGNITION IN ANY WAY A PRECONDITION FOR ARBA ASSISTANCE TO THE GOI ON PETROLEUM SUPPLIES AND CREDITS. THE ISSUE HAD BEEN CONSIDERED FOR A LONG TIME BY THE GOI AND IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO GO AHEAD NOW WITH ACCEPTANCE OF A PLO OFFICE WHICH, IN FACT, WOULD HAVE QUASI-DIPLOMATIC BUT NOT FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES IN NEW DELHI.

2. THE MEA DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL INFORMS US THAT WHILE THE PLO OFFICE WILL BE CARRIED IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST, IT WILL BE IN THE BACK AMIDST THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDICES, THE MISSION WILL NOT USE DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES, IT WILL HAVE PARTIAL BUT NOT FULL DIPLOMATIC FREE ENTRY PRIVILEGES AND WILL HAVE POUCH AND CODE PRIVILEGES. IT WILL BE HEADED BY A "CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE", AS THE ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE IS, AND NOT BY AN AMBASSADOR.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN GOI AGREEMENT TO A PLO OFFICE AND POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON PRG OFFICE THE MEA DEPUTY SECRETARY (EAST ASIA) CAUTIONED US NOT TO DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN THE GOI'S POLICIES WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. THE GOI HAS LONG VIEWED THE PLO AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS BUT IS NOT UNDER ANY ILLUSION THAT THE PRG REPRESENTS ALL SOUTH VIETNAMESE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROCEEDED TO REITERATE HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS TO US THAT THE GOI AND PRG HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A PRG OFFICE IN INDIA BUT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED ON THE MODALITIES AND DETAILS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PRG WILL NOT HAVE A DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE, WILL THE CHIEF OF THE PRG OFFICE PRESENT LETTERS OF ACCREDITATION?

4. ON THE QUESTION OF THE TIMING OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OPENING OF A PRG OFFICE HERE, WE REITERATED OUR PREVIOUS STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ON THE PRG QUESTION AND CALLED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ATTENTION TO AN INDIA PRESS REPORT THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS WOULD HAVE AN DELEGATION IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CPI CONGRESS AT THE END OF JANUARY. WE ASKED WHETHER THE DELEGATION WOULD BE RECEIVED

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IN DELHI AND WHETHER A PRG ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING AT THAT TIME. THE MEA OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT HE "PERSONALLY VERY MUCH DOUBTED" ANY ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE SO SOON. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE CAUTIONED, IN CONCLUSION, THE USG SHOULD NOT CONCLUDE WHEN A PRG ANNOUNCEMENT DOES FOLLOW IN TIME THE PLO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ANY GENERAL SHIFT HAS OCCURRED IN INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY.

5. COMMENT: OUR GUESS, BASED ON THE LATTER CONVERSATION IS THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GOI-PRG AGREEMENT FOR A PRG OFFICE IN DELHI IS STILL NOT IMMINENT AND THAT THE STATUS OF A PRG OFFICE WILL BE ANALGOUS TO THAT OF THE PLO. THE MEA'S VERSION OF THE FACTORS LEADING UP TO INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF A PLO OFFICE IS PROBABLY GENERALLY ACCURATE. WE ASSUME THE SPECIFIC TIMING MAY HAVE RELATED TO WHEN MRS. GANDHI GOT AROUND TO CONSIDERING THE ISSUE, AND THIS WAS PROBABLY IN TURN RELATED TO THE SPATE OF ARAB VISITORS TO NEW DELHI IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (UAE, BAHRAIN, LIBYA) AND MRS. GANDHI'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO IRAQ JANUARY 18. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS FAVORING INDIAN AGREEMENT (INCLUDING THE FACT THAT THE PLO WAS ALREADY REPRESENTED IN NEW DELHI THROUGH THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES MISSION) AND LITTLE FOREIGN (AND NO DOMESTIC) PRESSURE AGAINST ITS DOING SO. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE HAS RECEIVED MODEST EDITORIAL COMMENDATION, NO CRITICISM, BUT HAS REALLY AROUSED LITTLE INTEREST IN THE PRESS OR -- SO FAR AS WE CAN TELL FROM A BRIEF SAMPLE -- ELSEWHERE. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, RECOGNITION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE00655
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-0280
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750154/aaaabuzo.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 006860
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLO RECOGNITION: PRG PROSPECTS FOR RECOGNITION
TAGS: PFOR, IN, XF, VS, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006